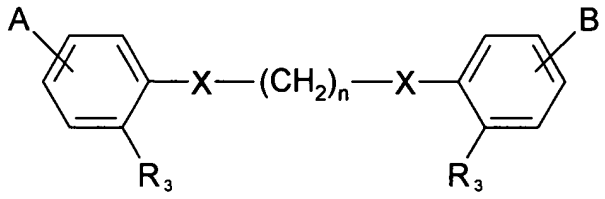
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) A method for treating Alzheimer's disease in a subject in need of treatment thereof, the method comprising administering to the subject a therapeutic amount of an amidine compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

18. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (I):

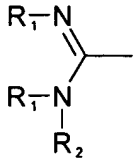


(I)

;

wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds of formula (i):



(i)

subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i);

R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, and alkylaminoalkyl;

or two R_1 groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent —$(CH_2)_m$— wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

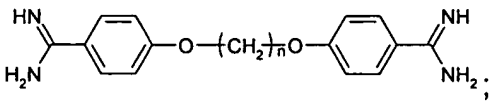
R_3 is H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, or halogen;

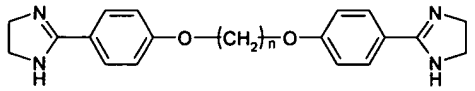
n is an integer from 2 to 6; and

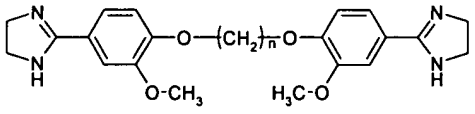
X is O, NH, or S;

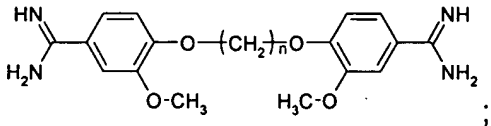
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

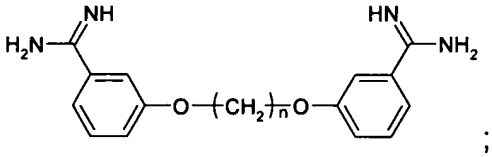
19. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18 wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:


;


;


;

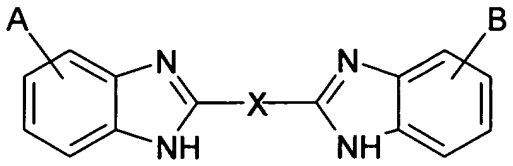

; and


;

wherein n is an integer from 2 to 6;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

20. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (II):

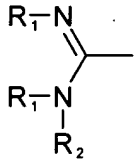


(II)

;

wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds of formula (i):



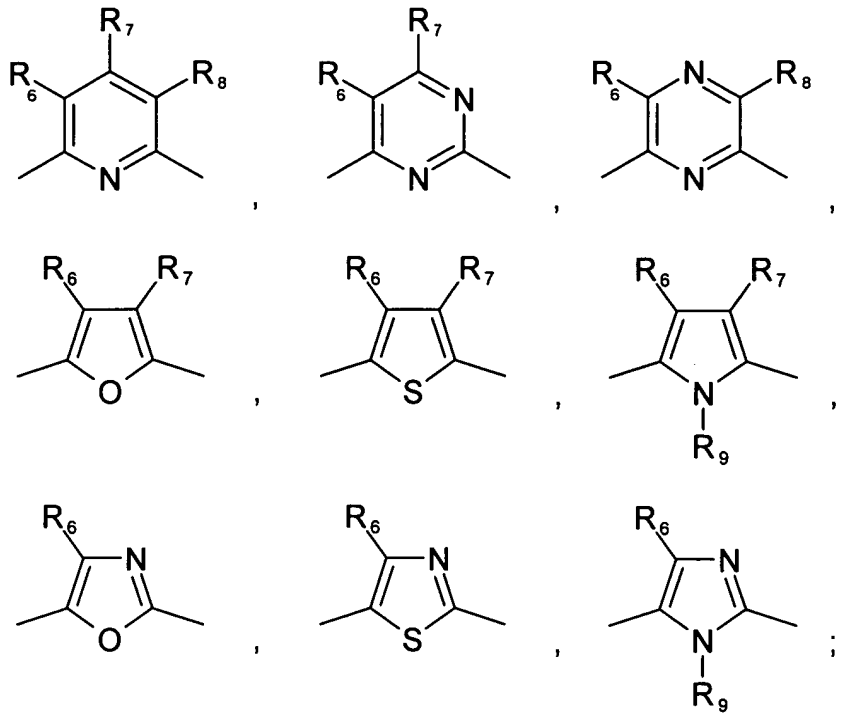
(i)

subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i);

R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, and alkylaminoalkyl;

or two R_1 groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent $—(CH_2)_m—$ wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

X is a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C_1-C_{12} alkyl comprising up to 4 double bonds; or X is a heterocyclic aromatic group selected from the group consisting of:



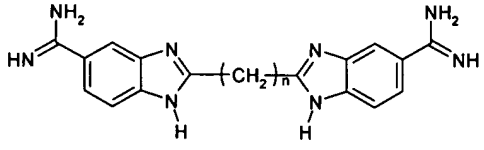
wherein

R_6, R_7, and R_8 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, halogen, oxyalkyl, oxyaryl, or oxyarylalkyl;

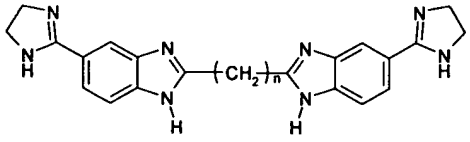
R_9 is hydrogen, loweralkyl, hydroxy, aminoalkyl, or alkylaminoalkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

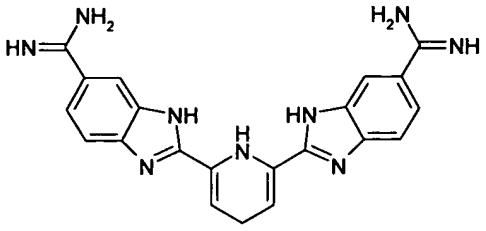
21. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:



;



; and

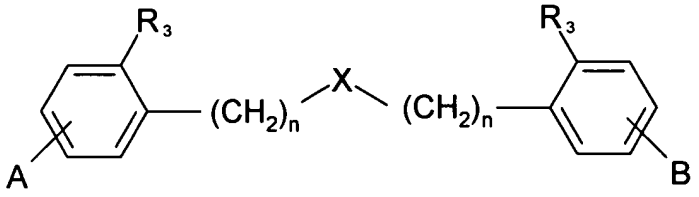


;

wherein n is an integer from 1 to 12;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

22. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (III):

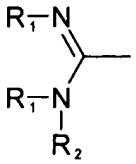


(III)

;

wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds of formula (i):



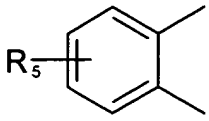
(i)

subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i);

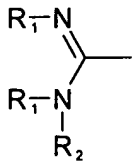
R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl and alkylaminoalkyl;

or two R_1 groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent —$(CH_2)_m$— wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

or two R_1 groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent



wherein R_5 is

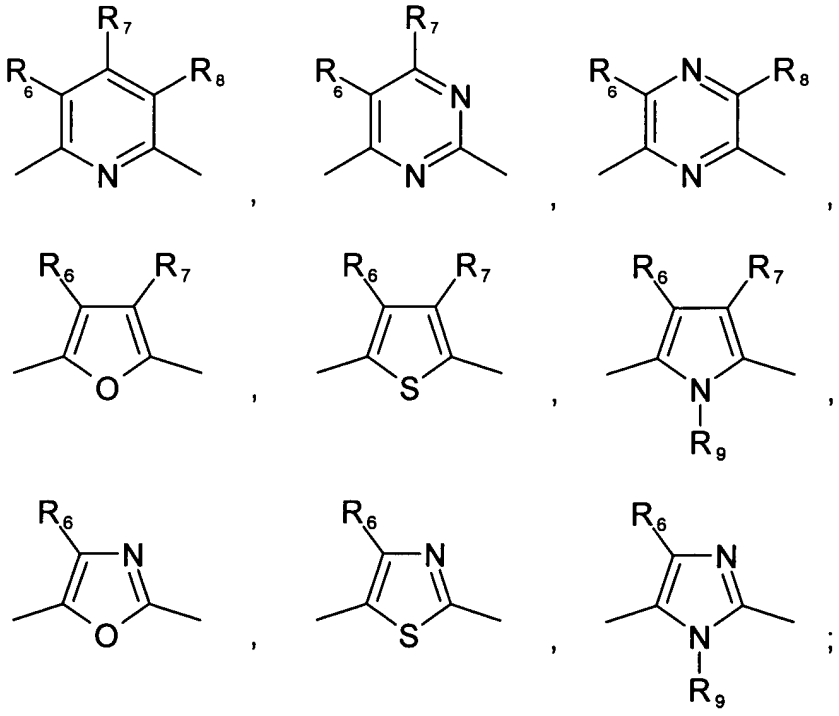


(i)

R_3 is H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, or halogen;

n is an integer from 0 to 2; and

X is CH_2O or a heterocyclic aromatic group selected from the group consisting of:



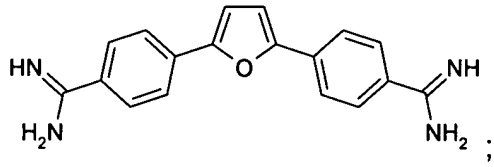
wherein:

R_6, R_7, and R_8 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, halogen, oxyalkyl, oxyaryl, or oxyarylalkyl;

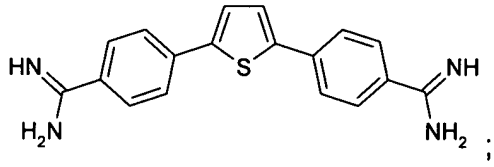
R_9 is hydrogen, loweralkyl, hydroxy, aminoalkyl, or alkylaminoalkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

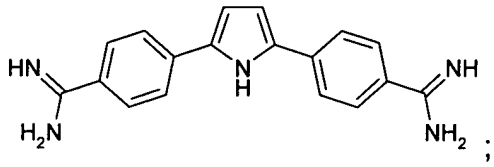
23[[22]]. (Currently amended) The method of Claim [[21]]22 wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:



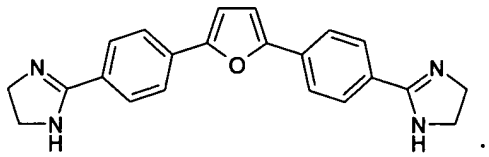
;



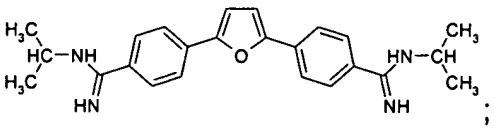
;



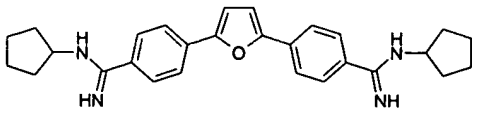
;



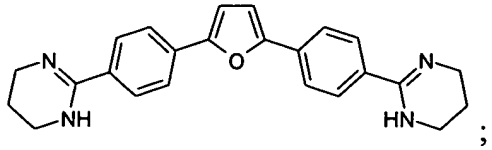
;



;



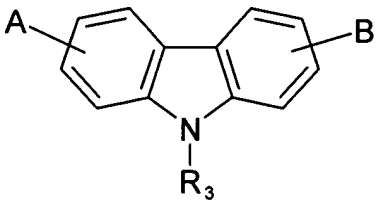
; and



;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

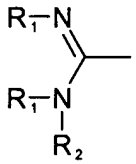
24. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (IV):



(IV)
;

wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds of formula (i):



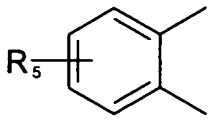
(i)

subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i);

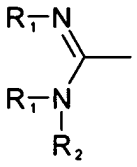
R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, and alkylaminoalkyl;

or two R_1 groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent $—(CH_2)_m—$ wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

or two R_1 groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent



wherein R_5 is



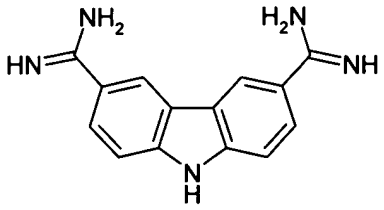
(i)

; and

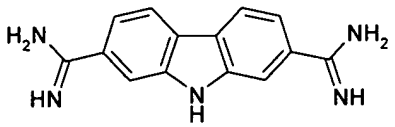
R_3 is H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, or halogen;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

25. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 24 wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:



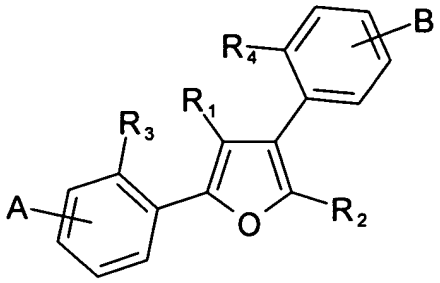
; and



;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

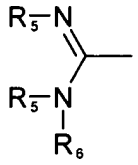
26. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (V):



(V)

wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds of formula (ii):



(ii)

subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (ii);

R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, aminoaryl, halogen, oxyalkyl, oxyaryl, or oxyarylalkyl;

R_3 and R_4 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkylaryl, aryl, oxyaryl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, or halogen;

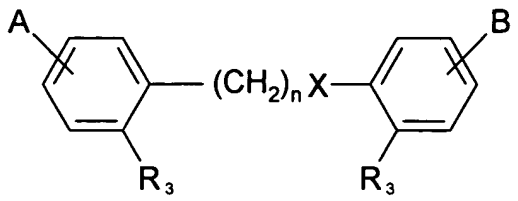
each R_5 is independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, or alkylaryl;

or two R_5 groups together represent C_2 to C_{10} alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, or alkylene; and

R_6 is H, hydroxy, loweralkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkylamino, alkylaminoalkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxycycloalkyl, alkoxycycloalkyl, aryl, and alkylaryl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

27. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (VI):

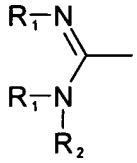


(VI)

;

wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds of formula (i):



(i)

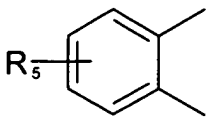
subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i);

R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, and alkylaminoalkyl;

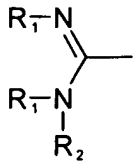
or two R_1 groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent —$(CH_2)_m$— wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

R_3 is H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, or halogen;

or two R_1 groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent



wherein R_5 is

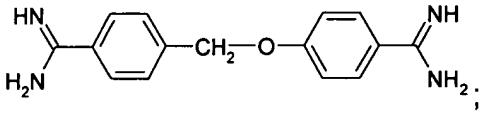

(i)

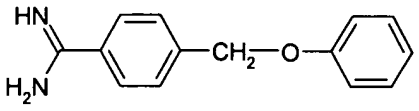
X is O, S, or NH;

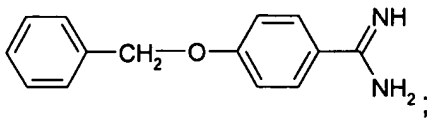
n is an integer from 1 to 8;

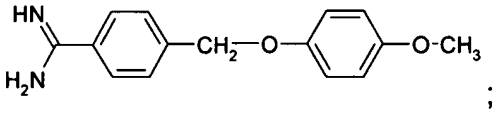
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

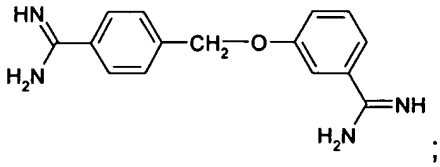
28. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 27, wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:

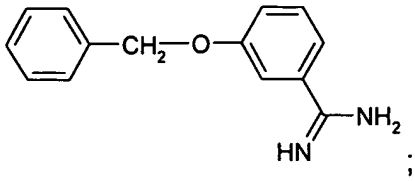

;


;


;


;

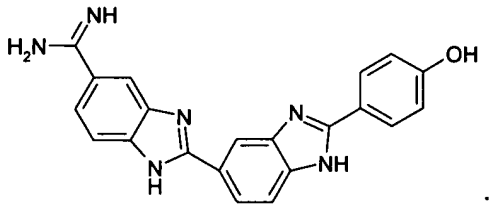

; and



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

29. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17 wherein the amidine comprises a bis-benzamidine.

30. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17 wherein the amidine comprises a compound having the following structure:



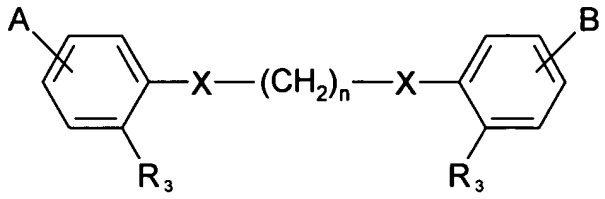
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

31. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein the subject is afflicted with Alzheimer's disease.

32. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein the subject is at risk of developing Alzheimer's disease, the treatment is a prophylactic treatment, and the amidine compound is administered in a prophylactically effective amount.

33. (Previously presented) A method for treating diabetes in a subject in need of treatment thereof, the method comprising administering to the subject a therapeutic amount of an amidine compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

34. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 33, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (I):

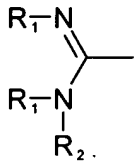


(I)

;

wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds of formula (i):



(i)

subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i);

R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, and alkylaminoalkyl;

or two R_1 groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent $—(CH_2)_m—$ wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

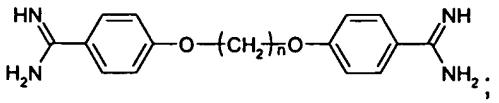
R_3 is H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, or halogen;

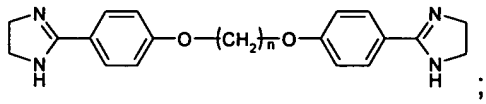
n is an integer from 2 to 6; and

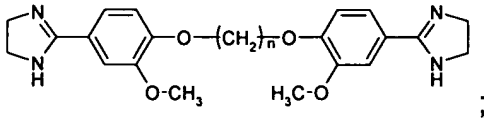
X is O, NH, or S;

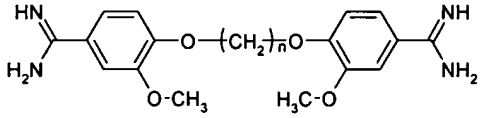
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

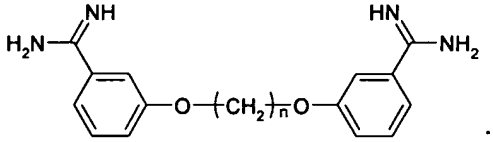
35. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 34 wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:


;


;


;

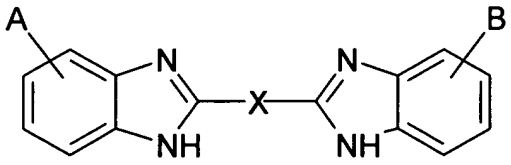

; and


;

wherein n is an integer from 2 to 6;

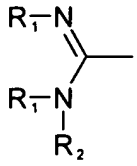
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

36. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 33, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (II):


(II)
;

wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds of formula (i):

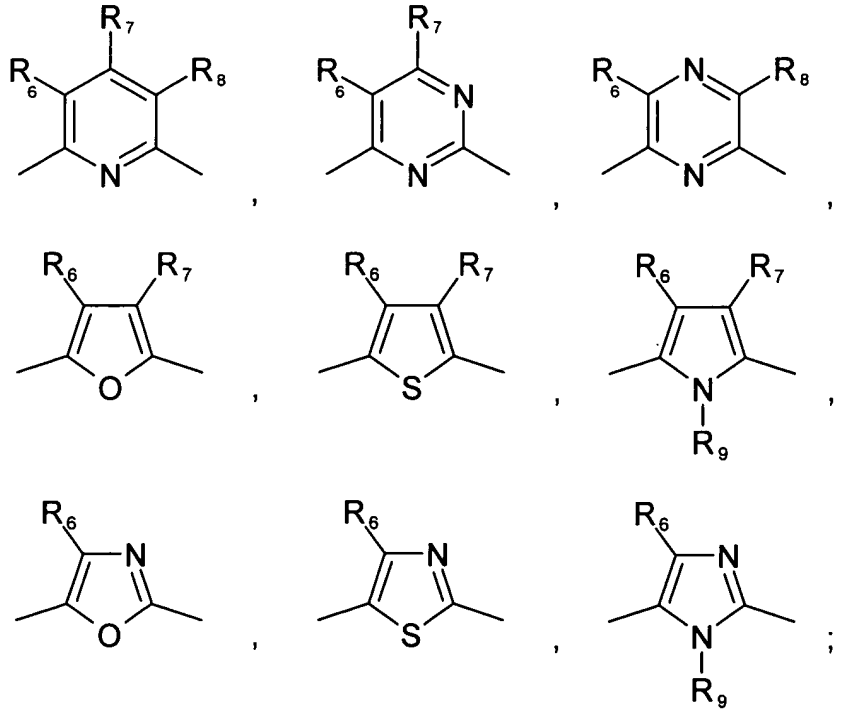

(i)

subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i);

R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, and alkylaminoalkyl;

or two R_1 groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent $—(CH_2)_m—$ wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

X is a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C_1-C_{12} alkyl comprising up to 4 double bonds; or X is a heterocyclic aromatic group selected from the group consisting of:



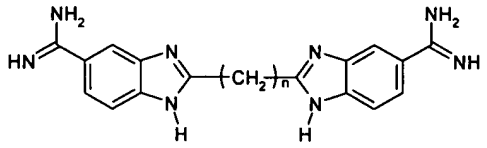
wherein

R_6, R_7, and R_8 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, halogen, oxyalkyl, oxyaryl, or oxyarylalkyl;

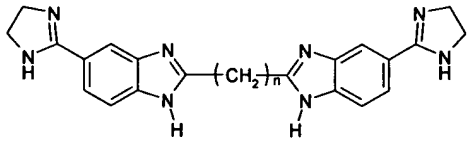
R_9 is hydrogen, loweralkyl, hydroxy, aminoalkyl, or alkylaminoalkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

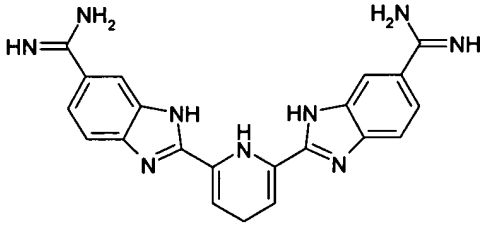
37. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 36, wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:



;



; and

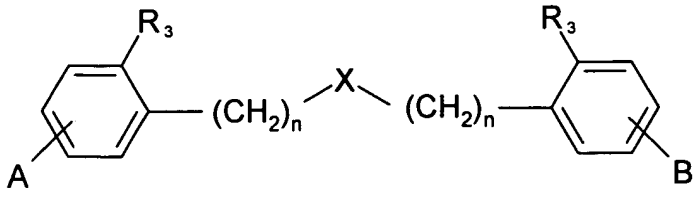


;

wherein n is an integer from 1 to 12;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

38. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 33, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (III):

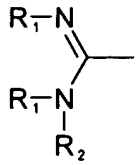


(III)

;

wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds of formula (i):



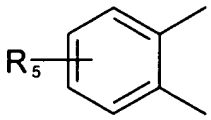
(i)

subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i);

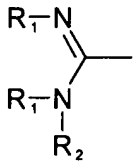
R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl and alkylaminoalkyl;

or two R_1 groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent $—(CH_2)_m—$ wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

or two R_1 groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent



wherein R_5 is

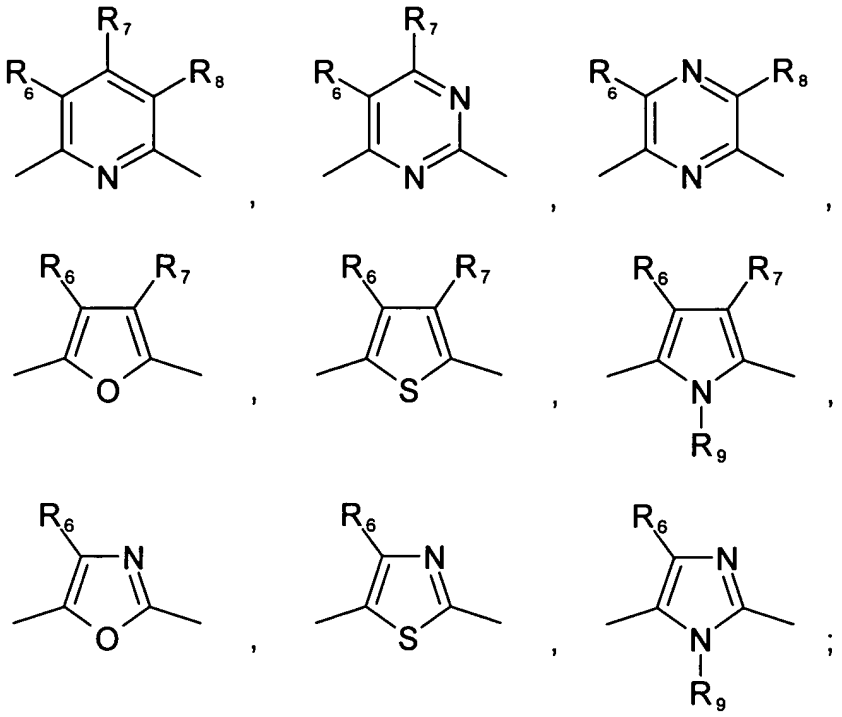


(i)

R_3 is H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, or halogen;

n is an integer from 0 to 2; and

X is CH_2O or a heterocyclic aromatic group selected from the group consisting of:



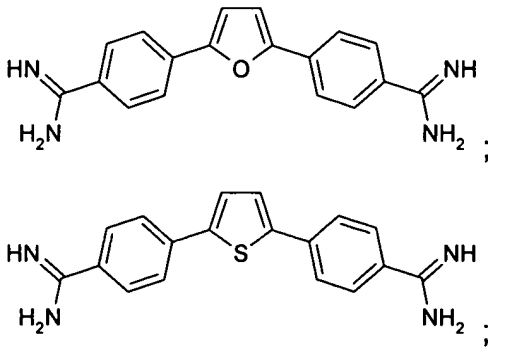
wherein:

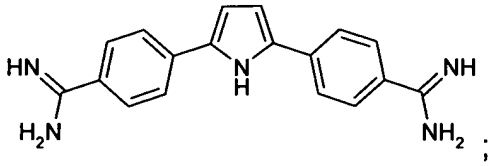
R_6, R_7, and R_8 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, halogen, oxyalkyl, oxyaryl, or oxyarylalkyl;

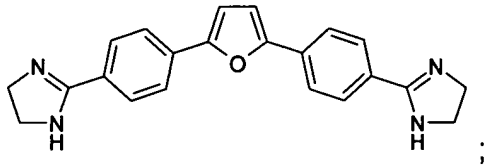
R_9 is hydrogen, loweralkyl, hydroxy, aminoalkyl, or alkylaminoalkyl;

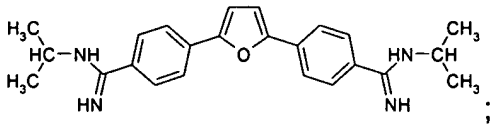
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

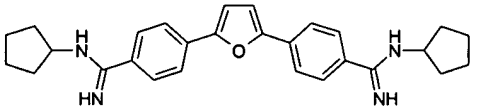
39. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 38 wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:

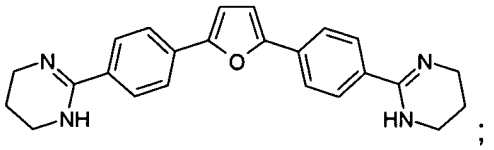



;


;

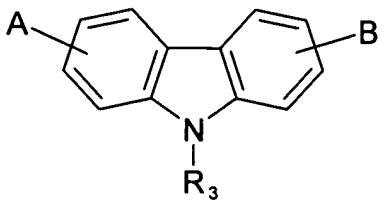

;


; and


;

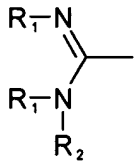
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

40. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 33, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (IV):


(IV)
;

wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds of formula (i):



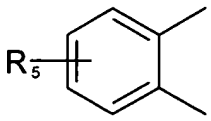
(i)

subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i);

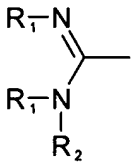
R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, and alkylaminoalkyl;

or two R_1 groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent $—(CH_2)_m—$ wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

or two R_1 groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent



wherein R_5 is



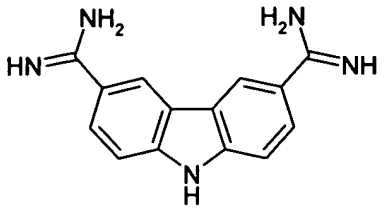
(i)

; and

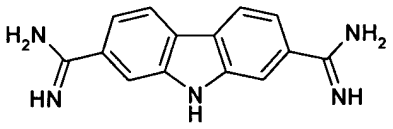
R_3 is H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, or halogen;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

41[[40]]. (Currently amended) The method of Claim [[39]]40 wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:



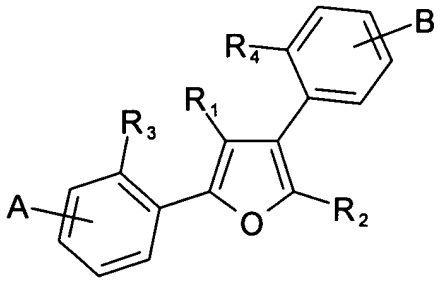
; and



;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

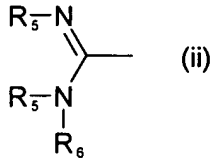
42[[41]]. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 33, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (V):



(V)

wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds of formula (ii):



(ii)

subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (ii);

R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, aminoaryl, halogen, oxyalkyl, oxyaryl, or oxyarylalkyl;

R_3 and R_4 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkylaryl, aryl, oxyaryl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, or halogen;

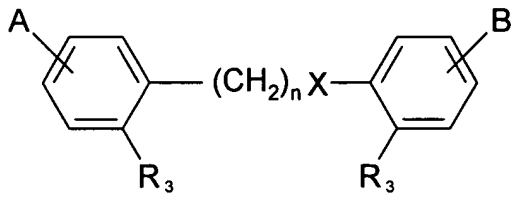
each R_5 is independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, or alkylaryl;

or two R_5 groups together represent C_2 to C_{10} alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, or alkylene; and

R_6 is H, hydroxy, loweralkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkylamino, alkylaminoalkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxycycloalkyl, alkoxycycloalkyl, aryl, and alkylaryl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

43[[42]]. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 33, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (VI):

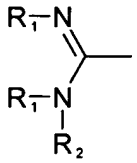


(VI)

;

wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds of formula (i):



(i)

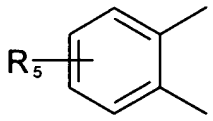
subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i);

R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, and alkylaminoalkyl;

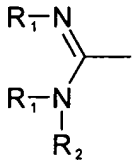
or two R_1 groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent $—(CH_2)_m—$ wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

R_3 is H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, or halogen;

or two R_1 groups on the same compound of formula (i) together represent



wherein R_5 is



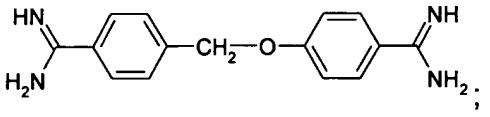
(i)

X is O, S, or NH;

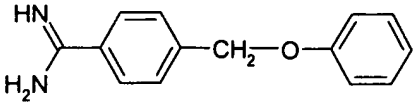
n is an integer from 1 to 8;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

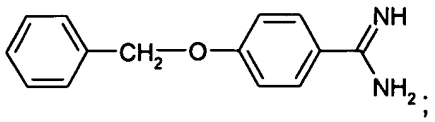
44. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 43, wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:

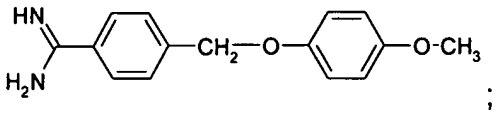


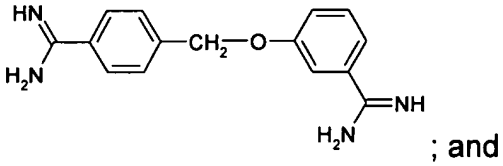
;



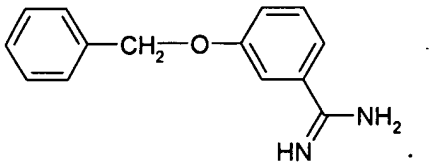
;







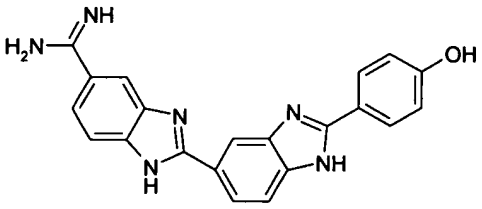
; and



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

45. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 33 wherein the amidine comprises a bis-benzamidine.

46. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 33 wherein the amidine comprises a compound having the following structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

47. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 33, wherein the subject is afflicted with diabetes.

48. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 33, wherein the subject is at risk of developing diabetes, the treatment is a prophylactic treatment, and the amidine compound is administered in a prophylactically effective amount.

RESTRICTION PRESENTED

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (hereinafter "the Patent Office") has indicated that the Restriction/Election Requirement of July 28, 2005 has been withdrawn in view of the cancellation of claims 1-16. Further, the Patent Office has indicated that the applicants' Amendment filed December 16, 2005, adding claims 17-48 has engendered a new Restriction/Election Requirement.

In particular, the Patent Office alleges that claims 17-32, directed to a method of treating Alzheimer's disease, and claims 33-48, directed to a method of treating diabetes, represent two species that are independent or distinct because the causes of the diseases are unrelated. Thus, the Patent Office requires the election of one of these species for prosecution to which the claims will be restricted if no generic claim is found allowable.

Further, the Patent Office has indicated that the claims are generic with regard to the species of Formulae (I)-(VI). The Patent Office alleges that the species are independent or distinct because their structures are unrelated. The Patent Office requires the identification of the species elected for prosecution to which the claims will be restricted if no generic claim is found allowable, as well as a listing of all claims readable thereon. Finally, the Patent Office requires the identification of one ultimate species with all moieties specified with particularity.

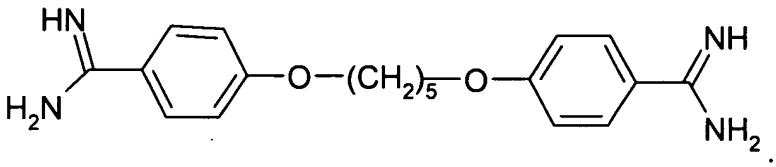
APPLICANTS' ELECTION

Applicants hereby elect the species related to treating Alzheimer's disease, claims 17-32, for prosecution at this time.

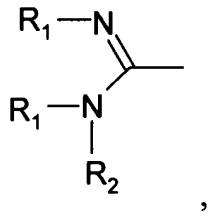
Additionally, applicants elect the species related to the compounds of Formula (I) for prosecution at this time. With regard to the previously elected method claims for treating Alzheimer's disease, applicants note that the following claims read upon compounds of Formula (I) in whole or in part: claim

17 (in part), claim 18, claim 19, claim 29 (in part), claim 31 (in part), and claim 32 (in part).

Finally, as the ultimate species, applicants select compound 1 (see Table 1, page 23 of the specification as filed):



Compound 1 is the compound of Formula (I) wherein A and B are both:



,

R_1, R_2, and R_3 are H, X is O, and n is 5.

The present elections are made without traverse to the extent that it is understood that, upon the finding of an allowable species, examination will continue until all species have been examined, or a non-allowable species is found, all in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure § 803.02.